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STATISTICAL SUMMARY

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS, U. S. D. A.

SS - 47

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OCTOBER 14, 1946

~~RECORD CORN CROP VIRTUALLY ASSURED~~

Most of the major crops safely made by early October. Corn a record crop, estimated October 1, at 3,374 million bushels compared with 3,018 million bushels last year.

Farm stocks of old corn October 1, amounted to 158 million bushels, lowest for the date since 1937, is 48% below the stocks on farms a year ago (303 million bushels) and only about half the 10 year average.

Total Farm supplies of corn at beginning of October feeding season, estimated new grain plus carryover, roughly 3,215 million bushels, second largest supply of record and about 200 million bushels above last year.

~~WHEAT ALSO A RECORD BREAKER~~

Nation's biggest wheat crop practically harvested, total crop estimated 1,169 million bushels, 46 million bushels above last year's record. Winter wheat 880 million bushels all harvested, a record crop, compared with 823 million last year. Spring wheat estimated 290 million bushels, about 4% below the 300 million bushels grown last year and considerably below the record of 368 million bushels in 1915. Spring wheat harvest also about completed.

Wheat stocks on farms October 1 were 560 million bushels compared with 528 million bushels a year ago. Stocks are larger than any other like date except in 1942 (640 million bushels).

Disappearance of 652 million bushels of wheat from farms in first quarter of marketing year is second highest, exceeded only in 1945.

~~SECOND LARGEST OATS CROP~~

Oats crop estimated 1,527 million bushels, second year in which crop has exceeded 1 1/2 billions. This year's crop only 1% below record crop last year of 1,548 million bushels, but is 35% above average.

Oat stocks on farms estimated 1,172 million bushels, about 9% under year ago but 27% above average for October 1.

~~GOOD RICE CROP~~

Rice crop estimated 69.9 million bushels compared with 70.2 million bushels last year and 55.3 million bushels average. Still possibility of frost damage to late crop in Arkansas; little loss likely in Louisiana, Texas harvest handicapped by rains, California rice harvest favorable.

~~POTATOES BREAK THE RECORD ALSO~~

Record large crop of potatoes coming out of ground. Crop indicated over 471 million bushels compared with 425 million last year and largest previous crop of 465 million in 1943. Indicated yield per acre 173 bushels, about 22 bushels more than previous record. Indicated crop in 30 late potato States 351 million bushels, only 12.7 million under 1943 record.

~~PLENTY OF TOBACCO~~

Tobacco an all-time record crop, 2,248 million pounds, 12% larger than previous record crop last year (1,998 million pounds).

Flue-cured estimated 1,313 million pounds, far above last year's previous record of 1,174 million pounds.

Burley estimated 602 million pounds, if realized would be 24 million over last year.

Southern Maryland estimated 42.4 million pounds, a record high and about twice last year's crop. Now all cut, in barns and curing.

Dark Air-cured 49.1 million pounds, about 5.5 million pounds over last year.

Dark-fired 92 million pounds, about average and compares with 57 million pounds last year.

Total Cigar Leaf estimated 149.7 million pounds, compared with 123.7 million pounds last year. Fillers, binders and wrappers all substantially above last year and average.

~~SLIGHTLY MORE SUGAR IN THE MAKING~~

Sugar beet crop indicated 11 million tons, 28% above last year and compares with average of about 9.6 million tons.

Sugar cane for sugar and seed estimated 6.4 million tons compared with 6.8 million last year and 5.9 million average.

~~AN AVERAGE APPLE CROP~~

Commercial apple crop estimated 121 million bushels, three-fourths more than record small crop last year (68 million bushels). This crop practically same as 1935-44 average. Eastern and Central States have nearly average crops this year. Western crop 3 percent above last year and 6 percent above average.

~~PLENTY OF CITRUS~~

THIS WINTER

Record large crop of early and mid-season oranges expected (constitutes principal supply October to

COMMODITY AND UNIT	PARITY PRICES FOR FARM PRODUCTS AND ACTUAL PRICES RECEIVED		
	ACTUAL PRICE		PARITY PRICE
	AUG. 15 1946	SEPT. 15 1946	
Wheat, bu.	dol. 1.78	1.79	1.77
Corn, bu.	dol. 1.80	1.73	1.28
Peanuts, lb.	ct. 8.88	8.98	9.60
Cotton, lb.	ct. 33.55	35.30	24.80
Potatoes, bu.	dol. 1.43	1.28	1.47
Hogs, 100 lb.	dol. 20.90	15.70	14.50
Beef cattle, 100 lb. . .	dol. 17.00	15.20	10.80
Veal calves, 100 lb. . .	dol. 16.20	15.50	13.50
Lambs, 100 lb.	dol. 16.30	15.80	11.80
Butterfat, lb.	ct. 70.8	75.6	152.3
Milk, wholesale, 100 lb. .	dol. 4.25	4.37	13.30
Chickens, live, lb. . . .	ct. 27.6	29.3	22.8
Eggs, doz.	ct. 39.1	44.5	145.6

¹Adjusted for seasonal variation.

April 1). Forecast 57.4 million boxes, about 10.5 million over last year and 7.6 million above previous record in 1943-44.

Grapefruit also expect record crop, about 64.7 million boxes (exclusive of California summer grapefruit), or about 3.4 million above last year.

SOYBEAN CROP DOWN A LITTLE

Soybeans estimated 183.4 million bushels, about 4% under last year and slightly lower than during war years. However, soybean crop is 75% larger than in 1941, the peak year of pre-war production.

Stocks of old soybeans on farms October 1, estimated 2.1 million bushels, lowest for the date since 1942. Stocks a year ago were almost 3 million bushels.

SMALLEST COTTON CROP IN 25 YEARS

Based on October 1 conditions, cotton crop for this year forecast 8,724,000 bales. This is 447,000 bales or 4.9 percent less than the September 1 forecast. Drought in Arkansas and weevil, rain damage, and cold weather elsewhere hurt the crop during September. Forecast this year is smallest since 1921 and compares with 9,015,000 bales last year and 10-year average of 12,553,000 bales. Yield of lint per acre estimated 235.6 pounds compared with 251 pounds last year, and 10-year average of 243.2 pounds.

SOMETHING TO GO WITH THE TURKEY

Good crop of cranberries in sight, 815,100 barrels compared with 656,800 barrels last year and second only to 1937 crop of 877,300 barrels.

HEAVY FLOW OF CATTLE INTO FEED LOTS

Shipments of stocker and feeder cattle into the 11 corn belt States, July through September, were 36 percent larger than in 1945 and much larger than any other year since 1940. Prices paid for feeder cattle were nearly \$4 per cwt higher than year ago. Shipments of stocker and feeder cattle from four leading markets for the three months July-September showed fewer heavy steers but about 20 percent increase in lighter weight steers. Feeder calves increased 80 percent and cows and heifers 70 percent over last year.

MILK PRODUCTION OFF A LITTLE

DESPITE HEAVY FEEDING

Milk production in September 9.4 billion pounds, 2 percent under record September last year (still 8 percent above 1935-44 average for the month). Late pastures and heavy feeding gave highest yield per cow on record, 14.06 pounds October 1 compared with 13.83 year ago and 13.05 pounds average. Number of milk cows, however, is about 4 percent under year ago and high production

per cow could not offset this. Cows being fed an average of 3.64 pounds of grain per cow compared with 3.59 year ago, 3.35 in 1944 and 3.20 in 1943. From August 1 to October 1, amount of feed per cow was increased 12 percent, about double the increase in past two years.

FEWER YOUNG CHICKENS

Hens laid 3.3 billion eggs in September, 4 percent under year ago but 23 percent above 1935-44 average. Total egg production first 9 months this year 44.9 billion eggs, 2 percent under like period last year but 26 percent above average.

Chicks hatched this year up to September 1 were 25 percent fewer than in same period last year. Number young chickens under 3 months old on September 1, was 123 million, smallest number in six years of record and 41 percent under year ago. Number of all young chickens October 1 about 411 million birds, 18 percent under year ago but 1 percent above 1935-44 average.

Total number of potential layers October 1, (hens, laying pullets and young pullets) 526 million, about 9 percent under year ago but 9 percent above average.

Other young chicks on farms October 1, mostly roosters, cockrels and young chickens for meat estimated 87 million, about 36 percent under year ago and 21 percent below average.

NUMBER FARM WORKERS NOT MUCH ABOVE YEAR AGO

Number of farm workers September 1 was 11,111,000. The increase during August was smaller than usual; number of family workers increased less than usual and number of hired workers remained the same. The figure of total employed this September compares with 10,907,000 year ago. Number of family workers this September, 8,334,000 compares with 8,094,000 last year. Number hired workers 2,777,000 compares with 2,813,000 last year.

FARM CASH RECEIPTS UP

Total cash receipts of farmers from products sold during August 2,233 million dollars compared with 1,823 million last year. These figures include 64 million dollars Government payments this August compared with 50 million year ago. Total receipts for 8 months January-August 13,918 million dollars compared with 12,967 million in like period last year. Figures include 752 million dollars Government payments this year compared with 591 million year ago.

CURRENT INDEXES FOR AGRICULTURE		
INDEX NUMBERS	BASE PERIOD	SEPT. 1946
Prices received by farmers . . .	1910-14 = 100	243
Prices paid by farmers, interest and taxes	1910-14 = 100	200
Parity ratio	1910-14 = 100	122
Wholesale prices of food . . .	1910-14 = 100	204
Retail prices of food	1910-14 = 100	¹ 221
Farm wage rates	1910-14 = 100	¹ 390
Weekly factory earnings . . .	1910-14 = 100	² 384
RATIOS	LONG-TIME SEPT. - AVERAGE	SEPT. 1946
Hog-corn ratio, U. S.	12.1	9.1
Butterfat-feed ratio, U. S. .	24.7	25.7
Milk-feed ratio, U. S. . . .	1.29	1.31
Egg-feed ratio, U. S. . . .	13.8	11.7
PRODUCTION COMPARISONS	JAN.-AUG. 1945	JAN.-AUG. 1946
Milk, (Btl. lb.)	86.9	85
Eggs, (Btl.)	42.3	41.7
Beef, (Dr. wt., mil. lb.) . .	4,646	3,749
Lamb & Mutton (Dr. wt., mil. lb.)	598	589
Pork & Lard (Mil. lb.) . . .	5,358	5,888
All meats (Dr. wt., mil. lb.)	11,045	10,587

¹August figure.

²Factory pay roll per employed worker adjusted for seasonal variation. June figure.

For more detailed information, write the Division of Economic Information, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.